

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF NORTH CAROLINA
ASHEVILLE DIVISION
DOCKET NO. 1:16-cv-00215-MOC

JACQUELINE RAY,)	
)	
Plaintiff,)	
)	
v.)	ORDER
)	
NANCY A. BERRYHILL,)	
Acting Commissioner of Social Security,)	
)	
Defendant.)	

THIS MATTER is before the court on plaintiff's Motion for Fees Under the Equal Access to Justice Act (#17). The court enters the following Order, pursuant to its authority to award fees to a prevailing party, other than the United States, incurred by that party in a civil action against the United States under the Equal Access to Justice Act (EAJA), 28 U.S.C. § 2412(d)(1)(A), and in light of this court's earlier Order (#15) and Clerk's Judgment (#16) remanding this case to the defendant for further proceedings. The court notes that the parties have conferred on this matter and agreed upon the fees.

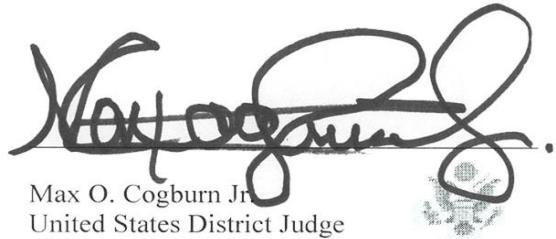
ORDER

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the plaintiff's Petition for Attorney Fees Under the EAJA (#17) is **GRANTED**, the United States Social Security Administration shall pay attorney's fees in the amount requested of \$5,000.00, in full satisfaction of any and all attorney's fee claims plaintiff may have in this case under the EAJA.

Pursuant to the United States Supreme Court's ruling in Astrue v. Ratliff, 130 S. Ct. 2521 (2010), these attorney's fees are payable to plaintiff as the prevailing party, and are subject to

offset through the Treasury Department's Offset Program to satisfy any pre-existing debt plaintiff may owe to the government. If, subsequent to the entry of the Court's EAJA Order, the Commissioner determines that Plaintiff owes no debt to the government that would subject this award of attorney fees to offset, the Commissioner may honor Plaintiff's signed assignment of EAJA fees providing for payment of the subject fees to Plaintiff's counsel, rather than to Plaintiff. If, however, the Commissioner discovers that Plaintiff owes the government any debt subject to offset, the Commissioner shall pay any attorney fees remaining after such offset to plaintiff, rather than to counsel.

Signed: March 13, 2017


Max O. Cogburn Jr.
United States District Judge